

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 3-14 are now present in the application. Claims 19 and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Reasons For Entry Of Amendments

As discussed in greater detail hereinafter, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 should immediately be withdrawn. Accordingly, the finality of the Final Office Action mailed on November 2, 2006 should be withdrawn.

In particular, the amendments are simply made to cancel claims 19 and 20. Therefore, no new issue should be raised. In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.116, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the foregoing amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3-14 are allowed. Applicants greatly appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103

Claims 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or unpatentable over Inoue, U.S. Patent No. 6,005,325, or Inoue, U.S. Patent No. 6,140,738. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

Without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, as the Examiner will note, claims 19 and 20 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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